

Judge clears Toronto man
in Soviet consul incident

0551 Att.
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Identity error closes case

Taking the view that two Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers could have been mistaken in their identification of the accused, Provincial Judge Thomas Swabey last week acquitted a Toronto man of damaging a Soviet-owned building during a demonstration against the visit of Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin here last October.

DPOB c 20, CANADA Eric Heine, 52, was accused of having tossed a rock through a plate glass window in the Russian consular residence, at 52 Rango Road, on Oct. 17.

RCMP Constables J. R. Murray and Tim Le Drew, who were parked in their car near the consulate on the afternoon in question, said they saw Heine toss an object at the building a second before the window was shattered.

Both officers said they had never seen Heine in person before, but had identified him from a photo which had been issued to them that day.

The two officers were positive that the man who

threw the object had been wearing a beige trenchcoat.

Two friends of the accused, Ulo Jurima and Ed-

jar Rande, both of Toronto, were called as witnesses by defence counsel Gary E. Schreider. They swore that Eric Heine had worn a heavy, dark grey overcoat the day of the demonstration.

A coat of this type was produced in court by Mr. Schreider, the accused said that it was his coat and that he had worn it during the demonstration.

Denying that he had thrown any object that day, Eric Heine told the court that the week prior to the anti-Kosygin demonstration here RCMP officers had warned him: "Every policeman has your mug shot and you will face instant arrest if you take part in any demonstration."

Heine told the court that it was not until a week after the incident here that he was arrested in his Toronto home.

Judge Swabey said that in the face of the evidence submitted by police officers who had never seen the accused until the day in question, it would be dangerous to register a conviction.

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